

Apple Blossom chair resigns

Sudden move surprises committee

By **BOB OWEN**
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The Apple Blossom Tyme Festival continues to have growing pains. Following mixed reviews of the 2005 festival, organizers set out to review the entire festival, assess its strengths and weaknesses and build a better event with an expanded board of directors.

The group is well on its way to accomplishing that, but it had a pair of setbacks at its September 28 meeting. The first was disappointing, the second, surprising.

With regret, the board accepted the resignation of director Al Brisco. In responding to his letter, board secretary Pat Johnston acknowledged his many hours of work in his area of expertise. Mr. Brisco has been overseeing the entertainment side of the festival almost from the time he set down roots in the community.

The second resignation came as a complete shock. The board and was e-mailed to members on the same day as the meeting. Newly-elected chair Janette Oliver-Rodgers announced in the letter e-mailed to board members the day of the meeting that she would no longer participate in the

organizing of the festival.

The former chair cited not getting the job as Cramahe tourism co-ordinator as justification for dropping out of the Apple Blossom group and four other groups associated with the township of Cramahe. She had been elected by the Apple Blossom Board at its August 31 meeting and had planned to have several items ready to discuss at the meeting last Wednesday.

The Apple Blossom Tyme members present last Wednesday made no decision to replace Ms. Oliver Rodgers at last week's meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided to make a decision about a new chair at the October 26 meeting.

Aside from the resignations, the directors announced progress has been made in various aspects of planning the 2006 festival. They are considering holding all but the car, tractor and a possible motorcycle show on the Keeler Centre grounds. They are weighing the possibility of lining the cars down the side of Division Street and closing off it off to other vehicle traffic. Vendors this year will be all housed together, possibly under a tent, protecting them from the elements.

New twp. tourism co-ordinator hired

By **BOB OWEN**
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Cramahe Township's new tourism co-ordinator, Rebecca Goddard-Bowman, is eager to start her new job.

Earlier this summer, township council approved the 20-hour-a-week position as a means to boost the township's profile and attract people to the area.

Ms. Goddard-Bowman has lived most of her life in this area. She was educated at Grafton Public School and Cobourg District Collegiate Institute East before getting her Bachelor of Applied Arts in retail management at Ryerson University.

She moved back to Cobourg in 1995 and has two children attending school there.

Ms. Goddard-Bowman contributed to the revitalization of the Cobourg downtown, and has done some small business consulting. Much of her report, *Marketing Downtown Cobourg*, has



PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Rebecca Goddard-Bowman is Cramahe's first tourism co-ordinator.

been implemented.

She has worked in the Self-Help Office in Cobourg and most recently was the Port Hope economic development officer, a position she left last fall.

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New twp. tourism co-ordinator

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Her marketing and communication consultant's business has been producing marketing materials for communities.

As Cramahe's tourism coordinator, she will lead the marketing and promotion of the community's tourism assets.

Some of the first tasks she will tackle will be developing and furthering marketing materials, updating the tourism part of Cramahe's website, and looking at partnerships to further tourism. She sees the major drivers of tourism as private/public partnerships. These partnerships give the township a better value for dollars spent, she says.

She will be working with the Apple Blossom Tyme Committee and other tourism groups that have special days. For now, she knows she has to build relationships and work with committees in

the community.

And a long range plan needs to be developed. She admits there is a lot to be done.

She wonders if it is too late to put a visitors' guide together in the last couple of months left this year.

Ms. Goddard-Bowman will work under the direction of Cramahe Parks, Recreation and Leisure director Ken Wood.

Mr. Wood is enthused about the profile this new position will give to Cramahe tourism. He applauds the efforts of Cramahe Councillor Marc Coombs for bringing the need to the forefront.

"We've been able to bring one of the best people in Northumberland County to join us," Mr. Wood says. "She is well-respected in the industry and highly professional. She has the ability to think outside the box."

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600 DEATH NOTICES

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STETZER, AMY B (FOWLER)

Age 93, in Wisconsin. October 1st 2005. Veteran WWII. Beloved wife of Donald F. Stetzer. Dear sister of Joe Fowler and the late Wm. Fowler and Winifred of Harwood.

TAYLOR, MILDRED MURIEL

Peacefully at her residence on Tuesday October 4th, 2005 in her 90th year. Beloved wife of the late Claude Taylor. Loving mother of Lawrence, Gary, Peter, Paul, Brian, Connie Moore, Carolyn Chrysler, Jeanne Bell, Pat Spencer, Linda Hess and Barbara Whaley. Dear grandmother of 31 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren, 5 great great grandchildren and pre-deceased by one grandson, John Taylor. Sister of Peg Chapman, Laura Chatterton and the late Minnie Patterson and Helen Baptist. Friends are invited to call at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King St., W., Cobourg on Wednesday from 2-4 and 7-9pm. A private family service will be held on Thursday. Interment in Castleton Cemetery. If desired donations may be made to the Castleton United Church or Heart & Stroke Foundation. Condolences received at www.maccoubrey.com.